

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05

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-----114508 241325Z /40

R 240217Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3399

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KULA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, RP

SUBJ: TUCP AND BLAS OPLE FIGHT OVER KBL LABOR SECTOR CANDIDATES

TUCP ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL JUN JAVIER TOLD LABATT
THE EVENING OF MARCH 22, THAT THE TUCP AND SECRETARY OF
LABOR BLAS OPLE ARE ENGAGED IN A MAJOR POLITICAL DISPUTE.
THE DISPUTE IS OVER THE NOMINATION OF KBL LABOR CANDIATES
FOR THE FORTHCOMING LABOR SECTORAL ELECTIONS FOR THE NEW
PARLIAMENT. OPLE HAS PROPOSED ROY PADILLA, PRESIDENT OF
THE NATIONAL MINES AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION (NMAWU), AS
ONE OF FOUR KBL CANDIDATES FOR LUZON. ROY PADILLA AND
HIS UNION ARE NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE TUCP AND HE IS ONE
OF TRADE UNION OFFICIALS THAT IS PETITIONING THE SUPREME
COURT TO DECLARE RESTRUCTURING OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT
UNCONSTITUTIONAL. AT A SPECIAL MEETING ON MARCH 15,
THE TUCP EXECUTIVE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TWO
RESOLUTIONS CRITICAL OF BLAS OPLE. THE FIRST CITES
THE TUCP AS THE ONLY OFFICIALLY ACCREDITED NATIONAL
CENTER FOR LABOR IN THE COUNTRY AND REMINDS EVERY-
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ONE THAT PADILLA, IN HIS PETITION TO THE SUPREME COURT,
ACCUSES THE GOVERNMENT OF "ACTIVE MANIPULATION OF THE
LABOR MOVEMENT" TO BRING ABOUT RESTRUCTURING. THE
SECOND RESOLUTION REQUESTS PRESIDENT MARCOS, AS CHAIR-
MAN OF THE KBL, TO SELECT LABOR SECTOR CANDIDATES FROM
THE TUCP LIST WHICH IS PART OF THE RESOLUTION. THE
LIST PROPOSED 10 TUCP OFFICIALS FROM LUZON, ONE FROM

THE VISAYAS AND FIVE FROM MINDANAO.

COMMENT: BLAS OPLE HEADS THE KBL TICKET FOR THE CENTRAL LUZON REGION. IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT HE WOULD WANT TO INCLUDE PADILLA'S MINE WORKERS FROM LUZON AS SUPPORTERS OF KBL. HOWEVER, HE RISKS AN OPEN RUPTURE WITH THE TUCP WHICH WAS A CREATURE OF THE NEW SOCIETY LABOR CODE THAT OPLE AND MARCOS ARE PROUD TO CLAIM AS THEIR CREATION. BOTH PETITIONS ARE ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT MARCOS AND IF OPLE CAN'T INTERCEPT THEM, THEY HAVE TO BE VIEWED AS HURTING OPLE WITH THE PRESIDENT. OPLE HAS TO KNOW THAT KITO MENDOZA, AS THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE TUCP, IS A MUCH DIFFERENT MAN THAN THE LATE BERT OCA. TUCP OFFICIALS RATE MENDOZA AS ARROGANT, RUTHLESS WITH POWER AND AMBITIOUS. OCA WAS CONSIDERED MILD-MANNERED AND DIPLOMATIC BY COMPARISON.

NEWSOM

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